

Subject: Criminal checks increasingly a fact of life for physicians

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Criminal checks increasingly a fact of life for physicians State medical boards say scrutiny of license applicants helps keep bad doctors out of their states. <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/prl11220.htm>

Anthem, WellPoint merge into largest health plan The combined company, which operates many BlueCross BlueShield insurers, prompts physician misgivings about how the new WellPoint will wield its power. <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/bil21220.htm>

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GOVERNMENT & MEDICINE

Medicare payment ample for cancer drugs, GAO says <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/gvsa1220.htm>

Thompson's farewell to HHS urges continued focus on global health <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/gvsb1220.htm>

Baseball deal strikes out with physicians in District of Columbia <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/gvsc1220.htm>

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

Study details gap in death rate by race; health care disparities blamed <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/prsa1220.htm>

ACP opens affiliate membership to PAs <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/prsb1220.htm>

UNOS: Don't solicit for cadaveric donation <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/prsc1220.htm>

Oregon doctors want more in-state students <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/prsd1220.htm>

Removal of FAQs about prescriptions on DEA Web site causes turmoil <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/prse1220.htm>

BUSINESS

Scouting a career coach: When it's time for a change <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/bisa1220.htm>
Practice Pointers - EMR search, while tough, can be done <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/bica1220.htm>
Personal Finance - Doctors looking at details as interest in HSAs grows <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/bicb1220.htm>

OPINION

Inform your patients about HSAs <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/edsa1220.htm>
From the AMA - AMA communications efforts help physicians to serve <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/edca1220.htm>
Letters - Ophthalmology academy president: Scope-of-practice crisis threatens quality, and Okla. is on the front line; and others <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/edlt1220.htm>

HEALTH & SCIENCE

Pursuing the placebo effect: What exactly is it? <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/hlsa1220.htm>
Brain scans may detect markers of some mental disorders <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/hlsb1220.htm>
Calculating obesity's toll is more than a number <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/12/20/hlsc1220.htm>
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